

Mr. Eli K. Price read the following report as Chairman of the Committee on the Michaux Legacy:—

“The course of lectures in Fairmount Park was successfully delivered by Dr. Rothrock in 1881, according to annexed statement.* The audience was interested and highly respectable; the number varying from two to four hundred.

“I recommend the continuance of the lectures for the present year; and that an appropriation be made of two hundred and eighty dollars (\$280) for the lecturer, and fifty dollars (\$50) for advertising. The course will be according to annexed schedule in manuscript.” †

On motion it was ordered that an appropriation of \$330 be made for the above objects, payable out of the Michaux Legacy.

Pending nominations Nos. 935 and 951 to 958 were read, and the meeting was adjourned.

Stated Meeting, April 21, 1882.

Present, 8 members.

President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

Letters of acknowledgment were received from the Glasgow Philosophical Society (107-108); the Royal Geological Society of Ireland, Dublin (XV, 3; 107-108); and the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia (108-109).

* In 1881, from April 23d to June 18th, on Saturdays at 4 P. M.:—Subjects—
1. How and why we study Botany; 2. The Plants we Eat; 3. The Plants we Drink; 4. The Plants we Wear; 5. How we and the Plants Breathe and How we help each other; 6 and 7. Diseases of Plants.

II. From September 10th to October 8th:—8. Strange Marriage among Plants; 9. Forestry in Europe; 10. Want of Forestry in America and Its Consequences; 11. How Trees are made; 12. How Plants Travel; 13. Weeds; 14. Botany for Winter.

† In 1882, on Saturdays, at 4 P. M., from April 22d to June 3d. Subjects—1, 2. Plants which have influenced Human History. 3, 4. How Plants are Constructed. 5, 6. How Plants are Organized. 7. Meat-eating Plants.

II. September 9 to October 21.—8. How Vegetation protects the Earth and influences Rain-fall. 9. What the Roots do and how they do it. 10. American Timber and its special value. 11, 12. Sick Plants. 13. Strength and Durability of Timber. 14. The Plants eaten by other Nations.

Letters of envoy were received from the Naturforschende Gesellschaft, Görlitz, dated Nov. 5, 1881; Naturhistorische Gesellschaft, Nürnberg, Nov. 16, 1881; Kgl. Hof-und-Staats-Bibliothek, München, Dec. 27, 1881; Meteorological Office, London, March, 1882; Canada Geological and Natural History Survey, Montreal, April, 1882; Department of the Interior, Washington, April 7, 1882; Louisiana Board of Health, New Orleans, March 30, 1882; and the Public Museum of Buenos Ayres.

Donations for the Library were received from the Academies at St. Petersburg, Copenhagen, Munich, Rome, and Brussels; Observatories at St. Petersburg, and Munich; Geological Society, Berlin; Natural History Societies at Görlitz, Chemnitz, Nuremberg, and St. Gall; Royal Society, Göttingen; Zoological Society, Leipsig; Royal Library, Munich; K. K. Geol. Reichsanstalt, and the Anthropologische Gesellschaft, Vienna; Herr Joachim Barrande, Prag; Musée Guimet, Lyons; Anthropological, and Geographical Societies, Ecole Polytechnique, and Revue Politique, Paris; Revista Euskara, Pamplona; L. G. De Koninck, Liège; Astronomical, Meteorological, Royal Geographical, Geological, and Royal Asiatic Societies, and Society of Arts, London; Geological Survey of India, Calcutta; Glasgow Philosophical Society; Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada; Prof. J. D. Whitney and Prof. Alex. Agassiz, Cambridge; American Antiquarian Society, Worcester; Prof. O. C. Marsh, New Haven; Prof. J. Henry Comstock, Ithaca; Capt. Jas. E. Cole, N. Y.; State Board of Agriculture, Harrisburg; Philadelphia and Reading R. R. Co.; U. S. Fish Commission, U. S. Entomological Commission, U. S. National Museum, and Census Bureau, Washington; Louisiana State Board of Health; National Museum, Mexico; and the Public Museum, Buenos Ayres.

Dr. Gross declined by letter, on account of numerous engagements, his appointment to prepare an obituary notice of Dr. Pancoast.

The death of Charles Robert Darwin, April 20, aged 73, was announced by Dr. Le Conte.

Dr. LeConte said :

In rising to announce the death of Charles Robert Darwin, which occurred on the nineteenth day of April, last, in the seventy-fourth year of his age, I have no intention to give a biographical sketch of his life, or his contributions to science. This labor of love will be performed fully by some of his compatriots, who have had the benefit of the sweet and instructive personal intercourse with him which has failed to be part of our earthly enjoyment. But what I do wish to manifest, as far as the feeble power of my language will permit, is the deep grief which we feel, at the loss of one, who has by his work and his writings, become a dear companion, and a guide in our scientific thought.

For, to no man more than to Darwin, does the present age owe as much, for the gradual reception of the modern method of close observation over the scholastic or a *priori* formulæ, which, up to a brief period, affected all biological investigations. To him, above all men, we owe the recurrence to the old Aryan doctrine of evolution (though in those ancient times promulgated under the guise of inspiration) as preferable, by reasonable demonstration, to the Shemitic views, which have prevailed to within a few years, and are still acceptable to a large number of well-minded but unthinking men. The doctrine of evolution, in its elementary form, means nothing more than that everything that exists has been derived from something that pre-existed ; that the former is related to the latter as effect is to cause. And it is most pleasing evidence of the acceptability of this doctrine, that it is now heard from many pulpits in the land, as a strong illustration of the instructions which are thence given.

Therefore, while lamenting the death of Darwin, at a ripe old age, and losing the benefit of his vast store of learning, which could not much longer remain with us, we are grateful that we have lived in a generation in which he was a conspicuous example of the humble and holy men of heart, which other scientific men should endeavor—albeit, with much less capacity—to imitate.

And, finally, we offer to the bereaved family our most heartfelt sympathy in their affliction, and our trust that the well-chosen ancestral alliances will enable the descendants to worthily succeed in attaining the honor and usefulness which characterized our deceased colleague.

The death of John Lenthall, U. S. N., April 11, at Philadelphia, in his 75th year, was announced.

The death of Robert Christison, M. D., of Edinburgh, was reported as having taken place in 1880.

Mr. Chase communicated Photodynamic notes No. V.

Mr. H. C. Lewis described his observations of the aurora of April 19 and 20, proving its connection with the earth by the

apparent motion of the corona eastward at the rate of 15° per hour.

Nominations Nos. 951 to 958 were read and balloted for.

Mr. Fraley reported that he had collected and paid over to the Treasurer the interest on the Michaux Legacy, due April 1, amounting to \$133.07.

On scrutiny of the ballot boxes, the following were declared duly elected members of the Society:

951. Charles W. King, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, England.

952. Rev. James W. Robins, D. D., Principal of the Episcopal Academy in Philadelphia.

953. Charles Sprague Sargent, A. B., Cambridge, Mass., Professor of Botany.

954. Franklin B. Hough, M. D., of Lowville, N. Y.

955. Stephen P. Sharples, of Boston, Mass., late Asst. Prof. Chem. Harvard College.

956. Charles Edward Rawlins, Esq., of Rock Mount Rainhill, Liverpool, England.

957. George de B. Keim, Esq., of Philadelphia.

958. Hamilton Andrews Hill, Esq., of Boston, Secretary of the National Board of Trade.

And the meeting was adjourned.